

Message Text

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TO WHITE HOUSE

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV

WHITE HOUSE PASS 86970

FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

SUMMARY: ALL NETS GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO NEWS OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN WEDNESDAY EVENING BROADCASTS. MUCH PRAISE FOR HAK, COVERAGE OF MEIR REMARKS AT WEDNESDAY RECEPTION. END SUMMARY

1. MARVIN KALB (CBS TV) - THE OUTGOING CABINET OF PM GOLDA MEIR CONVENED TODAY FOR ITS LAST HISTORIC DECISION. IT APPROVED THE KISSINGER COMPROMISE ON DISENGAGEMENT AFTER MAKING A FINAL CONCESSION. IT WAS THAT ISRAEL NO LONGER DEMANDED AN EXPLICIT SYRIAN PROMISE TO CURB TERRORISM. IN MID-AFTERNOON KISSINGER VISITED MRS. MEIR. HE SAID THAT IF ISRAEL HAD TO ACT AGAINST TERRORISM THE U.S. WOULD UNDERSTAND. BY THE TIME HE LEFT THE FINAL DETAILS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT. PRESIDENT NIXON'S ROLE IN MAKING THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT, FOR EXAMPLE. BY SUNDOWN THE ISRAELI CABINET FORMALLY ACCEPTED THE AGREEMENT.

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IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE KISSINGER SPENDS ANOTHER

33 DAYS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT HE BELIEVES THE AGREEMENT WAS WORTH THE EFFORT. IT WILL FACILITATE A PROCESS OF

ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN ALL ARABS AND ISRAEL AND IT WILL CONSIDERABLY IMPROVE AMERICA'S DIPLOMATIC POSITION IN THIS AREA, INSURING AMONG OTHER THINGS A STEADY FLOW OF ARAB OIL.

2. RICHARD VALERIANI (NBC TV) - KISSINGER WENT BACK TO DAMASCUS UNEXPECTEDLY FOR ANOTHER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD LAST NIGHT BECAUSE HE THOUGHT HE COULD GET FINAL SYRIAN APPROVAL FOR A DEAL AND HE DID, BUT THE BREAK-THROUGH HAD REALLY COME DURING 16 HOURS OF TALKS WITH ASSAD ON MONDAY, EVEN THOUGH THE PUBLIC INDICATIONS WERE OTHERWISE. KISSINGER RETURNED TO JERUSALEM AT 2:30 THIS MORNING AND MET FOR 2 HOURS WITH THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM. THE AGREEMENT WAS ESSENTIALLY NAILED DOWN DURING THIS SESSION, ALTHOUGH IT STILL REQUIRED APPROVAL BY THE FULL ISRAELI CABINET. THE CABINET MET TWICE DURING THE DAY -- FINALLY AGREEING TO A NUMBER OF AMERICAN PROPOSALS ON HOW TO CLOSE THE REMAINING GAP, INCLUDING ONE FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF TERRORISTS OPERATING FROM SYRIAN TERRITORY. A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID THIS WAS THE MOST COMPLICATED NEGOTIATION KISSINGER HAD EVER BEEN ENGAGED IN WHERE EVERY ISSUE WAS FOUGHT OVER IN A WAY HE HAD NOT EXPERIENCED BEFORE. KISSINGER FEELS THIS AGREEMENT COULD BE A HISTORIC TURNING POINT IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE EVEN THE MILITANT ARAB STATES MIGHT NOW DECIDE ON DIPLOMATIC, RATHER THAN MILITARY ACTION AS THE WAY FINALLY TO SETTLE ARAB-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES.

3. JOHN CHANCELLOR (NBC TV) - AND FINALLY THIS EVENING WE GO BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST FOR A FINAL LOOK AT TODAY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER. WITH THE TERMS OF THE MILITARY WITHDRAWAL ACCEPTED BY BOTH SYRIA AND ISRAEL KISSINGER CAME TO THE END OF ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS EVER MADE. HE WAS WORN OUT TODAY AND HE LOOKED IT. AS WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD A DEADLY SERIOUS MATTER WAS SETTLED TODAY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT THE CEREMONIES TONIGHT IN JERUSALEM FOLLOWING THE SETTLEMENT WERE NOT ALL THAT DEADLY SERIOUS.

4. TOM BROKAW (NBC TV) - IN RECENT DAYS WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMEN HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZING PRESIDENT NIXON'S INTEREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS REFERRING OFTEN TO HIS CONTACTS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, BUT

WHEN THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THE AGREEMENT TODAY HE GAVE KISSINGER FULL CREDIT. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF

SPECULATION ABOUT THE ROLE THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD TAKE IN THOSE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A PERMANENT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THERE ALREADY HAS BEEN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY, BUT TODAY WELL PLACED WHITE HOUSE SOURCES SAID THE SCHEDULE AND ITINERARY FOR THAT TRIP CAN NOT BE ARRANGED UNTIL SECRETARY KISSINGER RETURNS AND CONFERS WITH MR. NIXON.

5. BARRY DUNSMORE (ABC TV) - IN KEEPING WITH THE CLIFF-HANGER ATMOSPHERE WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THESE NEGOTIATIONS THE ISRAELI CABINET MEETING EARLY THIS MORNING ENDED WITHOUT ANY OFFICIAL WORD AS TO ITS POSITION. HOWEVER, ITS RECESS WAS A GOOD CLUE THAT THE DELAY WAS ONLY TO ACCOMMODATE AN AGREED UPON TIME FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT. WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME INFORMATION MINISTER PERES SPOKE TO REPORTERS. IT WAS ON KISSINGER'S 13TH TRIP TO DAMASCUS YESTERDAY, THE ONE WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD, WHICH HE HAD NOT PLANNED TO MAKE THAT THE SYRIAN SIDE OF THE AGREEMENT WAS FINALLY SETTLED. THE SYRIANS HAVE BEEN TENACIOUS NEGOTIATORS ON EVERY POINT BIG AND SMALL. BEFORE LEAVING DAMASCUS FOR THE LAST TIME DR. KISSINGER MADE A

BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WHO HAD ARRIVED THE NIGHT BEFORE. IT WAS THEIR THIRD MEETING DURING THIS MISSION BUT THE RUSSIAN ROLE IN THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL AS "SIMPLE NOT OBSTRUCTIVE". ACCORDING TO A UNCLASSIFIED

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SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AGREEMENT. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 26 YEARS THE RADICAL GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA AND ISRAEL HAVE FINALLY AGREED TO SOMETHING. IT IS HOPED THAT IT WILL PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHER ARAB STATES TO SEEK DIPLOMATIC RATHER THAN MILITARY METHODS AND THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL LEAD TO A POSITIVE EVOLUTION WHICH WILL RESULT FINALLY IN A REAL PEACE.

6. MARVIN KALB (CBS RADIO, FIRST LINE REPORT) - THIS AGREEMENT IS HISTORIC, NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT. FOR THE FIRST TIME A RADICAL ARAB STATE HAS ENTERED INTO A MAJOR AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. A PROCESS OF ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS BEGUN BY THE EGYPTIAN ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT OF LAST JANUARY HAS DEFINITELY BEEN

FURTHERED. AMERICA'S STRATEGIC POSITION IN THIS PART
OF THE WORLD HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED. ARAB OIL
WILL CONTINUE TO FLOW AND THE POLITICAL BY-PRODUCTS AT
HOME ARE OBVIOUS TOO. PRESIDENT NIXON HAS BEEN HANDED

ANOTHER TOOL BY KISSINGER WHICH THE WHITE HOUSE WILL NO
DOUBT USE TO HOLD OFF IMPEACHMENT PRESSURES. BUT
WATERGATE ASIDE THIS IS A PERSONAL COUP FOR KISSINGER
AND A NATIONAL COUP FOR THE UNITED STATES. AND TO MANY
PEOPLE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD KISSINGER AND THE
UNITED STATES ARE ONE AND THE SAME THING. BROWN

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